

DSHS
Division of Developmental Disabilities
Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payments

Project Update
April 12, 2002

The Legislative Proviso:

The Washington State Legislature, in their 2002 State Budget, directed the Division of Developmental Disabilities to implement a State Supplementary Payment (SSP) program to expand services to family support and high school transition while promoting self determination and independence for families with low and moderate income levels. DDD is further directed to use new funding, as well as a portion of existing DDD state funding, for the State Supplementary Payments.

State Supplementary Payment Program Parameters:

The purpose of a state supplementary payment is to increase, or “supplement” the income of an SSI recipient. The payments are in the form of an unencumbered cash payment to the recipient. The source of the SSP cash payments is from state, not federal, funds. The amount of the cash grant to each recipient is determined by need or income. A state must demonstrate “maintenance of effort” in its state supplementary payment program from year to year, disbursing at least as much in SSP as was paid in the previous year. Maintenance of effort must be demonstrated for the state to continue receiving Title XIX Medicaid funding.

Washington has maintenance of effort SSP level of about \$28.9 million. Prior to this budget proviso, the Economic Services Administration had been responsible for the state’s SSP program. ESA will continue to retain a portion of the SSP program, up to \$7.6 million. DDD will be responsible for administering \$21.3 million in SSP payments to DDD eligible recipients.

Concurrently, our state will change from the past practice of the federal government issuing payments to SSP recipients, to a system of state issued payments to SSP recipients. DDD will need to develop a system for the issuance of SSP payments. ESA will issue their SSP payments through the ACES system.

SSP Plan:

DDD is in the process of preparing a plan for the federal government. The plan will describe the proposed population of SSP recipients, how the state will determine their eligibility to receive SSP, and how the level of SSP payment will be calculated. The plan will be submitted to the federal government by April 30, 2002. Currently, DDD is in the process of securing the information needed to develop the plan to the federal government. DDD will be working with the regions, counties, providers, families and advocates as partners in developing the plan and implementing the State Supplementary Payment program.

SSP Project Staff at DDD:

Steve Brink, a 30-year employee with Economic Services Administration, returned to work from recent retirement to assist the Division of Developmental Disabilities in writing the SSP plan to the federal government. He has been familiar with our state's administration of SSP programs since their inception in 1974, and is conversant with the federal regulations governing SSI and SSP. He also has a history of working with personnel at the state and federal level involved with our state's prior SSP implementation. Steve can be reached at DDD:

Email: brinksc@dshs.wa.gov

Telephone: (360) 902-0880.

Jane Boone, a county coordinator for developmental disabilities programs in Thurston and Mason counties, is currently on loan to the Division of Developmental Disabilities to assist in writing the plan and coordinating the initial implementation strategies. She can be reached at DDD:

Email: boonejw@dshs.wa.gov

Telephone number (360) 902-8446.